



Restoration Declaration of the Kalapula Nation

📍 Crown Watchpoint 001A – Corvallis, Oregon

🌿 August 2025

In the presence of the trees, the rivers, and the memory that has never left the land, we, the Kalapula Nation, now rise and declare the following truths, drawn from history, scholarship, and flame.

We declare that the Willamette Valley was never empty. It was never wild. It was a tended homeland of bands and families who lived in ceremonial relationship with the land, the animals, and the sky. Our ancestors burned fields, cultivated camas, stewarded oak savannas, and moved with the rivers—not as wanderers, but as caretakers.

We declare that we were not one tribe, but a family of bands: Marys River, Santiam, Luckiamute, Tualatin, Yoncalla, and others. Each held names, dialects, leaders, and river alliances. The term “Kalapuya”—as history reduced us—was never our chosen simplification.

We declare that removal was not just military; it was economic, administrative, and environmental. It was starvation and treaty pressure. It was fire to the village, disease in the blankets, and ink on paper signed under hunger and grief. The Treaty of Dayton (1855) and others were not honored, and the promises made were scattered like ash.

We declare that the erasure of our people was administrative—not spiritual. Removal does not erase relationship. Broken treaties do not break memory. Even as our descendants were scattered, our roots remained.

We declare that restoration is not rebellion. Restoration is remembrance. It is the legal, ceremonial, and sovereign act of standing again—on the soil that still knows our names.

We now rise not to protest, but to remember publicly. We rise with filings, not flags. With seals, not slogans. With scrolls, not shouting.

We walk in the footsteps of scholars and fire-bearers, especially Dr. David G. Lewis, whose work Tribal Histories of the Willamette Valley has preserved memory against forgetting. His scholarship is now a sacred ember in our archive.

Let it be known: We are not restoring what was lost. We are continuing what was never extinguished.

With memory, reverence, and flame,

Chief Daniel Jacob Read IV

Sovereign of the Kalapula Nation



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📖 Archive: www.kalapula.org